What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #139:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

As 2019 comes to a close I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for a great year. There have been a lot of trips, auctions and trade shows. I saw some amazing coins this past year and even got the opportunity to bid on a few! The New York International is just around the corner. Aside from exhibiting there (at **booth 1601**), I will be popping in and out of auctions taking place that week. I expect to represent several clients at the various auctions in NY so please do get in touch with me if you need my help. I can explain my terms if interested.

New coins on offer on Shanna Schmidt Num. Inc. and VCoins

I know everyone is saving their money for the NY auctions but remember that I have spent this year scouring the auctions and trade shows for beautiful coins. I think I found some great pieces and many are more cost effective than buying in New York. I've purchased quite a few Celtic coins in the past year. The style is so modern in comparison with classical coins, yet they are contemporary. I'm continually reminded that Picasso would have certainly been influenced by this coinage. I've also bought quite a few lovely Republican pieces. I've always been impressed with the huge Aes Grave coinage of the early Republic. These anonymous issues were created in the 3rd century BC and are vastly different from those of their Greek counterparts. Republican Aes Grave can be tricky to import into the U.S. and many of mine have pedigrees which makes them even more special. Lastly I'd like to point out the numerous world coins that I've started to purchase. I've been increasingly interested in German talers, European medals and early hammered coins from Britain, Ireland and the Nordic Region. Please take the time to visit my website or alternatively VCoins which has almost all of my inventory online.

The Numismatist (ANA) and Coinsweekly

I am so pleased to announce something that I had a small part in creating. Starting with the January issue, Ursula Kampmann of Coinsweekly will be doing an international column called "around the world" in The Numismatist. One of my first goals after becoming an ANA governor was to try to provide more relevant content to the international community, particularly ancient coins. I've mentioned in previous newsletters that I feel that ancient collectors and dealers are very underserved by the ANA. With the help of my fellow governor Muriel Eymery, we are trying to close that gap. Ursula is a master at PR and her weekly ezine is fantastic in bringing the world markets a little closer together. I'm honored to have her writing this column and I hope that everyone will do their part by getting a subscription to the magazine. Mike Gasvoda of CNG is also going to be contributing regularly to the magazine. I really believe that this magazine is worth your time to get in paper form. Below is a link:

https://www.money.org/the-numismatist

CNG E-Auction 459 (closes Jan 8)

CNG will close their 459th esale just prior to the Triton auction. This e-sale has 673 lots composed of ancient, some world and a handful of U.S. collector coins. There is a featured collection, Asher D. Atchick of which there are 378 lots. Mr. Atchick has both ancient and U.S. coins. With Triton so close to this sale, I'm not certain how successful it will be. That said, there are some interesting pieces so it is worth checking out.

Upcoming Trade Show - The New York International Coin Show (January 10-19)

It's that time of year again when some of the best dealers from around the world converge in New York for a week of auctions and culminating in a fantastic coin show. I will be exhibiting at the show for the second year now at booth 1601. I can't tell you how excited I am for this show. The week begins with lots of auction viewing for Heritage, Triton, The New York Sale, Spink and Baldwins. Heritage and Triton have their sales at the beginning of the week and the others during or just at the tail end of the show. Don't spend all your money at the auctions though! There are so many great dealers with fantastic inventory on the floor. It is worth to stay for the show. Again, support the dealers who come to the NY International. We need to keep the show vital for years to come. Here is a link of the auctions, talks and bourse hours.

http://www.nyinc.info/index.php

Auctions taking place in New York the week of the NY International

Heritage Auctions (5 sessions from Jan 12-13)

Heritage will offer over 2,300 world and ancient coins in their upcoming NY auctions. The Signature floor auctions attract bidders but the ever popular Platinum Night brings everyone out. I routinely bid on the floor for Platinum Night and I am usually in and out of the Signature floor sessions. Heritage has done a lot for the ancient and world dealers by converting over collectors of U.S. coins to ancients. For this I am ever grateful. With the good however comes the not so wonderful. Heritage routinely encapsulates all of their coins. This is fine with me but for the purists in the hobby it means having to crack coins out of their "prisons". For me I find it incredibly difficult to view coins for Heritage. The room is typically too dark for viewing and the encapsulation makes it

utterly impossible to see the edges or the finer details. If there is a scratch on the plastic that impacts the viewing of the coin. That said, I welcome any customer that wants to bid in the Heritage sales. They do have good coins on offer. I just want to be honest with my customers that I can not guarantee that I won't see something that is amiss with the coin. Now the folks at Heritage may not like me being critical of their auctions but until NGC guarantees authenticity and stands by their grading we are at an impasse.

The New York Sale (collaboration of the firms Goldberg's, Markov, M&M USA and Sovereign Rarities) - Jan 14 (ancients portion only)

The New York Sale is composed of three different auctions but I will discuss the January 14th sale of ancients right now. This auction is composed of 260 lots of which 144 are from a Judaean collection. The Judaean collection has the coveted Year 5 Jewish Revolt shekel. These don't come around so often. There are only 14 known specimens of the shekel so this is one that is sure to be popular on the floor. There are also several bronze coins that while not as exciting are in great condition and difficult to find as complete as they are here. They also have 11 ½ (yes there is a ½ of one) Abu Jara or large bronze types in this sale. Typically we might see one or perhaps two in an auction. I've never seen 11! Also included are some wonderful shekels from the Bar Kochba revolt, as well as countless Zuzim and Roman provincial coins from Judaea. This is certainly an auction to check out if you collect any kind of Judaean coinage or are interested in coins from the Holy Land.

Triton XXIII (Jan 14-15)

This year's Triton sale will be the first with Mike Gasvoda as their commander in chief. Mike's imprint on CNG has been omnipresent and all in positive ways. Eric and Victor did an amazing job growing the company and together with Mike now they are headed in a positive direction. Changing with the times, introducing new auction formats online and exploring new areas of coins to sell. I also happen to think that CNG has a great group of folks that run their Lancaster offices (although I'm still questioning why Lancaster doesn't offer more sidewalks.....long story!).

Triton has four sessions and features two major collections: Matthew J. Curtis and Jack Frazer. Since I've viewed the first 600 lots I noticed many of the Curtis coins and they are in a word, phenomenal. The late Dr. Curtis (he was an ophthalmologist) had a wonderful eye. His selection of coins mirrors in many ways that way I buy. I love the aesthetic appeal of coins first and foremost. I always have an eye on pedigree (he did too) and the occasional rarity. Mr. Frazer amassed a collection of coins that were both extremely early (pre-500 AD) and modern (500-1900 AD). Mr. Frazer was highly influenced by Victor England and considered him his mentor buying based on historical and aesthetic appeal.

Triton is also offering several coins from the Jonathan Rosen collection, including an Eid Mar (cover coin and lot 620). There are additionally a fantastic group of early electrum from the Rosen collection.

Next week's newsletter will cover more of the modern coinage from Triton.

Stack's Bowers Ponterio Auction (Jan 17)

Like Goldberg and Heritage, SBP has a series of sessions but I will just focus on the ancient auction taking place on January 17. There are 493 lots. Like Heritage, most of the ancients are encapsulated. So again, viewing can be difficult. Also like Heritage however, the coins usually come from auctions where they were sold unslabbed. This makes viewing easier if you did your homework prior. What I like about SBP and Heritage is that you can bid on the floor or in the privacy of your own room. Online bidding is made very easy and doesn't cost more to do so this is extremely helpful when you might not have time to be present.

Baldwin's of St. James (Jan 19)

While they don't have a ton of ancient coins on offer, Baldwin's of St. James does have an auction worth consideration. There are 34 ancient coins at the beginning of the auction. BSJ has the unfortunate auction position of January 19, the last day of the NY International, when most of the folks have one foot out the door. I know this feeling when Gemini was pushed to that spot after years of being on Tuesday evening. Unless one has an incredible auction it is hard to get people to stay on. That said, one can always view and then bid online so please don't ignore this auction because of their unfortunate placement!

Coin of the Week

ROMAN REPUBLIC. L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus. Apollonia, then Asia, 49 BC
AR Denarius, 3.76g (16mm, 9h). Triskeles with winged head of Medusa in centre and corn-ears between legs. [border of dots] / Jupiter standing facing, holding thunderbolt in r. hand and eagle in l. hand; on l., [LENTΛAR] upwards; on r., COS upwards; on far r., harpa. Border of dots.

References: Crawford 445/1a. BMCRR Sicily 3. Babelon Cornelia 64 and Claudia 9. Syd 1029a. Sear Imperators 4. RBW 1561

Grade: Lovely cabinet toning and well struck on obverse with slight overall wear. Reverse is o/c so the left legend is not visible. aEF

Price: $3,750

rr1170

Buy Coin

This coin is struck under two moneyers that are associated with Pompey the Great. Crawford suggests that the coin is "military and irregular" in comparison with the numerous other Republican types. There were three periods in which Republican issues were struck outside of Rome: The Second Punic War, The Civil War between Sulla and his enemies and finally the wars from 49 onwards of which this type should be placed. The reason for striking outside the Roman mint was occasionally due to funds. Sometimes the money was just not available for the striking of coinage. Also, it made sense sometimes to strike closer to where the action was so as not to jeopardize the coins being deliverable to the troops.

The coin was struck by a moving military mint in presumably Apollonia. Jupiter is shown on the reverse which is suggestive of Rome. The triskeles on the obverse is a family type of one of the moneyers, C. Claudius Marcellus. The coin was struck around 49 BC when the conflict with Julius Caesar was at its height and the battle was on for power. The Senate was divided in its support for Caesar and Pompey. Pompey was killed in 48 BC as he arrived in Pelusian (Egypt) and was stepping off a boat to greet Ptolemy XIII, the brother of the famed Cleopatra VII.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-repuclic/roman-republic-l-cornelius-lentulus-and-c-claudius-marcellus-apollonia-then-asia-49-bc?rq=rr1170

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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